

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein. Claims 1-13 have been amended as supported throughout the original application.

1. Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under §112, first paragraph in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Original specification page 14, lines 2-13 discloses the reasons why spot-forming liquid is jettied from injection units located outside the surfaces of the supports (i.e., to maintain all the injection units in a state of use). Applicants respectfully submit that skilled artisans would understand from reading page 14 of the present specification that an evaluation of whether the injection units operate properly can be based on whether the injection modules located outside of the supports are operating properly. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

2. The rejection of claims 3 and 9 under §101 in paragraph 2 of the Office Action is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claims 3 and 9 submitted above.

3. The rejection of claims 1-13 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claims 1-13 submitted above.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 13 were rejected under §102(b) over WO 90/22867. To the extent that this rejection might be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Pending independent claim 1 recites, among other things, means for forming detection spots on a surface of a support including a plurality of injection modules. Pending claim 1 has been amended in order to clarify that each injection module is equipped with a plurality of injection units and that spot-forming liquid is jettied simultaneously from the injection units of each injection module toward the surface of

a respective support corresponding to the injection modules in order to simultaneously form detection spots on the surfaces of the supports.

Pending independent claim 13 recites, among other things, means for simultaneously forming detection spots (e.g., including a plurality of injection modules) in a plurality of regions on the surface of at least one support. Pending claim 13 has been amended in order to clarify that each injection module is equipped with a plurality of injection units and that spot-forming liquid is jetted simultaneously from the injection units of the respective injection modules toward a plurality of regions corresponding to the injection modules in order to simultaneously form detection spots in the plurality of regions on the surface of at least one support.

Fig. 4A of WO '867 shows that single dispensing heads (e.g., 52, 54, 56, 58 and 60) each form a single spot on a substrate corresponding to each of the dispensing heads. That is, the single dispensing heads are used to form spots sequentially on *separate* supports. Pending independent claim 1 recites, however, that spot-forming liquid is jetted simultaneously from a plurality of injection units on each injection module toward a surface of a support corresponding to each injection module. Similarly, pending claim 13 recites that spot-forming liquid is jetted simultaneously from a plurality of injection units on each injection module toward a region on a support corresponding to each injection module. In this manner, multiple detection spots are simultaneously formed on the surface of the support (claim 1) or a region on the support (claim 13) corresponding to each plurality of injection units. Again, WO '867 discloses a method of forming spots sequentially on separate supports using a single dispensing head corresponding to each support. As such, WO '867 does not disclose or suggest simultaneously forming multiple detection spots on the surface of a support or a region on the support corresponding to a plurality of injection units, as claimed.

In view of all of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection over WO '867 are respectfully requested.

5. Claim 4 was rejected under §103(a) over WO '867 in view of Gamble and/or Hirota. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments submitted above distinguish claim 1 from WO '867. Since Gamble and Hirota do not overcome the deficiencies of WO '867, and since claim 4 depends directly from claim 1, that claim is also believed to be allowable over the applied prior art.

6. Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 were rejected under §103(a) over WO '867 in view of Bass. To the extent that this rejection might be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Pending independent claim 7 recites, among other things, means for forming detection spots on a surface of a support including a plurality of injection modules each having a plurality of injection units. Spot-forming liquid is jetted simultaneously from the injection units of each injection module toward the surface of a single support which faces the injection modules in order to simultaneously form detection spots on the surface of the support. The support is then divided into a plurality of pieces.

As discussed above, WO '867 discloses a method of forming spots sequentially on separate supports using a single dispensing head corresponding to each support. As such, WO '867 does not disclose or suggest that spot-forming liquid is jetted simultaneously from the injection units of each injection module *toward the surface of a single support* which faces the injection modules in order to simultaneously form detection spots on the surface of the support, as recited in pending claim 7. This rejection should be withdrawn.

The PTO alleges on page 5 of the Office Action that it would have been obvious to cut the substrate of WO '867 in order to form separate chips as taught by Bass. Again, as discussed above, *WO '867 clearly discloses that spots are formed on multiple substrates*. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that skilled artisans would not have even looked to Bass for the reason alleged in the Office Action

because WO '867 already discloses forming spots on separate chips (i.e., there is no need to sub-divide the individual chips any further).

In view of all of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection over WO '867 in view of Bass are respectfully requested.

7. Claim 10 was rejected under §103(a) over WO '867 and Hirota and/or Gamble and further in view of Bass. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments submitted above distinguish claim 7 from WO '867. Since Hirota, Gamble and Bass do not overcome the deficiencies of WO '867, and since claim 10 depends directly from claim 7, that claim is also believed to be allowable over the applied prior art.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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